

Governor's Council for the Healthiest Next Generation: 2017 meeting follow-up

The Governor's Council met on October 16, 2017 with 49 members attending. Council members discussed and prioritized recommendations during small table discussions. The following recommendations represent the top priorities for each sector.

Early Learning

Expand Infant Toddler Consultation in early learning. Support DEL's expansion of the current Infant Toddler Consultation to include all health and safety activities and providers who care for one or more infants (currently it is only for providers who care for four or more infants). *Health and safety includes: behavioral health, communicable disease control/prevention, child development, developmental screening, nutrition, physical activity, screen time reduction.*

Support child care providers to meet new licensing requirements. Increase integration, training and ongoing support to help child providers meet health and safety child care licensing requirements. *Health and safety includes: behavioral health, communicable disease control/prevention, child development, developmental screening, nutrition, physical activity, screen time reduction*

Options to close gaps:

- Fund training and consultation for child care providers to meet the new requirements.
- Fund training and consultation for Early Achievers coaches so that they can work with child care providers to improve healthy eating and physical activity practices.
- Restore cut to Early Achievers.
- Fund assessment of resources and existing services.
- Fund a coordinated child care health consultation system in Washington.
- Increase subsidies so child care is more affordable.

Schools

Implement comprehensive suicide prevention in schools. Ensure resources are available for identification, follow-up and treatment of health and mental health conditions by implementing existing legislation to support comprehensive suicide prevention programs in schools and higher education and improving connections between schools and behavioral healthcare providers.

Support access to healthy food in schools. Support efforts to improve access and participation for all children in programs that support healthy foods.

Options to close gaps:

- Fund OSPI FY 19 decision package for \$1,158,000 to support educators in acquiring skills to recognize students who may be experiencing a behavioral health crisis and make appropriate referrals.
- Fund statewide assessment of school district compliance and implementation of ESHB 1336 requirement that "school districts must adopt a plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students: substance abuse, violence and youth suicide."
- Fund statewide implementation of specific effective programs such as Farm to School, school gardens, Smarter Lunchrooms, Universal Breakfast, Breakfast After the Bell, etc.
- Standardize "recess before lunch" policies across schools.
- Encourage participation in alternative programs such as Community Eligible Provision and Provision 2 for qualifying schools so all students eat free of charge.
- Encourage support and technical assistance in the assessment and promotion of local wellness policies in schools statewide.

Community

Provide infrastructure support for the Healthiest Next Generation Initiative to improve children's health. Ensure that all state agencies align practices and policies related to improving children's health in an efficient and effective way by embedding HNG coordinators at appropriate agencies.

Options to close gaps:

- A Health in All Places Executive Order that supports alignment and synergy between state agencies.
- Fund one FTE dedicated to children's health embedded in appropriate state agencies.